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## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### 2010 Monsoon Report 1

#### Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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#### Report Highlights:

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a normal monsoon this season. The southwest monsoon arrived on the southern tip of India on May 31, but has since progressed slowly. The cumulative rainfall up to June 16 has been 3 percent below the long-term average.

## **General Information:**

### **IMD Forecast Normal 2010 Monsoon**

On April 23, 2010, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) released its initial long-range forecast for the 2010 southwest monsoon season (June-September), which predicted a normal monsoon season for the country as a whole <sup>[1]</sup>. The IMD will update the long range forecast in the last week of June, when they will issue the forecast for monthly rainfall over the country and rainfall in the four broad geographical regions.

The southwest monsoon provides about 80 percent of India's annual rainfall, and is critical for India's agricultural production. Besides the volume of rains, its geographical distribution and timing during the monsoon season (June-September) is critical for the major kharif season crops (rice, coarse grains, cotton, peanuts, soybean, sugarcane). Roughly 60 percent of India's cultivable area is not irrigated and thus dependent on monsoon rains.

### **Monsoon Progress**

The southwest monsoon arrived on time at the southern tip of India on May 31 and progressed onto the mainland. However, low pressure and the cyclonic storm (PHET) in the Arabian Sea stalled the progress of the monsoon until June 6. Since then the monsoon has progressed gradually in stages (see attachment figure 1) covering most of peninsular and central India. Under normal conditions the monsoon would have covered northeast and parts of northwest India by June 15. The monsoon activity has further weakened since June 17, with subdued rainfall over most parts of the country. According to the IMD, monsoon rain advancement is likely after June 25 on expected formation of low pressure over the north Bay of Bengal and establishment of an east-west seasonal trough in the Gangetic plain.

### **Monsoon Performance**

The cumulative seasonal rainfall during June 1-16 has been only 3 percent below the long-term average, with 21 of the 36 weather subdivisions (agro-climatic zones) receiving good rains (see attachment figure 2). While the monsoon rainfall in the southern and central region has been satisfactory, the agriculturally important regions of northeast and central India have received low rainfall. Due to the recent slowdown in the monsoon activity, northeast and northwest zones have received scanty rains during the week ending June 16, with rainfall deficiency ranging from 30 to 90

percent (see attachment figure 3).

### **Progress of Planting**

The slow progress of the 2010 monsoon and its poor performance on the mainland to date (northwest and northeast India) is causing some concerns among the farmers and policy makers, albeit at a very early stage. Planting of the kharif (fall and early harvested) crops, particularly rainfed crops like rice, cotton, peanut, soybean, and pulses have been lagging behind 2009 levels.

### **Progressive Planting of Kharif Crops as on June 18, 2010**

(Area in 100,000 hectares)

<b><i>Crop</i></b>	<b><i>2010</i></b>	<b><i>2009</i></b>
Rice	10.97	11.73
Groundnut	0.357	0.710
Sunflower	0.263	0.870
Total oilseeds	1.349	2.710
Pulses	1.309	1.398
Sugarcane	45.24	40.75
Jute	7.535	6.857
Cotton	14.82	17.6

Source: Press Information Bureau, GOI [PIB Release](#)

Planting for most of the kharif crops can continue through mid-July, and in a few cases up until late August. Although the current delay in monsoon rains may not impact crop prospects, a further delay in the progress of monsoon can adversely impact the planting prospects, particularly for rice in the largely rainfed states of Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh.

<sup>[1]</sup> [IMD 2010 Monsoon Forecast](#)